



STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Education
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State Board of Education Announces New Officers

MONTPELIER – The State Board of Education elected new officers at its September 15, 2009 meeting, the Department of Education announced today. Fayneese Miller of South Burlington was elected Board chair, Ruth Stokes of Williston will continue serving as co-vice-chair, along with Kathy Larsen of Wilmington as second vice-chair.

The election was necessitated by the retirement of Chair Tom James. The governor recently appointed Stephan Morse of Newfane to complete the term vacated by James. Morse's first Board meeting will be on October 20.

Miller of South Burlington is the Dean of the College of Education and Social Services at University of Vermont. She came to Vermont after a 20-year career at Brown University where she was associate professor of education and human development and an internationally recognized expert on the social, academic and political development of adolescents. She led Brown's Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and was the university's first coordinator and chair of ethnic studies. Her State Board term will expire in 2012.

Stokes has been a Board member since 2005. Since 1999, she has been the Executive Director of the Vermont Student Opportunity Scholarship Fund (VTSOS). From 1989 to 1992, she served as a state representative for Williston and Richmond. In addition, Stokes was a member of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1995, serving the last two years as chair. She served as a member of her town's school board from 1975 to 1987, serving the last six years as chair. Stokes has also served on the executive board of the Vermont School Boards Association, and has taught high school science. Her State Board term will end in 2011.

Kathy Larsen of Wilmington spent her 33-year career teaching Vermont students. She spent one year as a paraprofessional, 24 years as a primary grade teacher, and eight as an elementary teaching principal. After one year in Williston, she spent the rest of her career at Deerfield Valley Elementary School, retiring in 2005. She also does mentoring and Formative Assessment Project trainings, as well as some substitute teaching to stay in touch with students and acting as interim principal. She serves as a member of the advisory board for the Wings Community Program afterschool program and the Deerfield Valley Health Care Volunteers local healthcare assistance program. Her term expires in 2013.

In addition, student member Robert Kelley of Brandon, who was appointed by Governor Douglas to the Board in August, participated in his first meeting. He is also a student school board member at Otter Valley Union High School

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